

CONGRESSIONAL REPORT, WWL-TV
Congressman F. Edward Hebert
March 5, 1967

Good Morning, ladies and gentlemen. Today I think the subject I would like to discuss with you is a subject that has been discussed recently with and without pertinent information. Of course, I refer to the subject of student organizations being subsidized by the C.I.A. I think I cannot accept the criticism of the C.I.A. I feel that I have the right to discuss this matter because I have served on the House Un-American Activities Committee. I have served on this committee for seven (7) years now. I have been given every piece of information that I have desired. It is a task to carry around these delicate matters but, as a member of that committee, I know the C.I.A. activities and I think that it should be understood what the Agency does before anyone passes any judgement or goes off on a tangent.

The C.I.A. grew out of the old O.S.S. of World War II which was our spy agency. There was a temporary period in which President Truman appointed Leahy, Forrestal, and several others to a committee. Out of this group grew the C.I.A.

Let us understand what the C.I.A. is supposed to do, what it was supposed to do, and what it will do. Number one, let us understand life and its realities. Someone has said that spying is the second oldest profession in the world. America, in defense of itself, under compulsion must offer something to counteract the enemies' ability to gain information.

F. Edward Hebert (Cont.)

The British system has been known throughout the world down through history. The Russian system has been known from the time of the Bolshevik Revolution, prior to World War II, and after World War II.

But, keep this in mind; in order to defend ourselves, we are much like the participants in a duel. We do not make the ground rules. We do not select the weapons. This decision is made by others. It is much like this in the spy business and it is the spy business. The C.I.A. is our spy business. It is to counteract the spy system of other nations. The rules are laid down by our opponent.

It is like a fight in the ring. One fellow wants to hit above the waist. The other fellow does not play by the rules. Are you supposed to let him win? He is the fellow calling the shots. This is an example of what the C.I.A. is doing, has done and will do.

The subject of C.I.A. subsidizing student organizations has come up recently. I say, "So What!" I would like to ask the people criticizing the subsidizing of these front or student organizations if they have asked themselves this question, "How many student organizations in the USA are or have been subverted by subsidizing by front organizations which receive their money from Communistic organizations?" We don't hear anything about that. Up to this moment, I have not heard anyone raise his voice about how many student organizations have been and are being financed by groups which receive financial support from Communistic organizations.

F. Edward Hebert (Cont.)

This subsidizing has been brought into focus. There is one thread that runs through this fabric. You must look with caution and suspicion at the organizations that carry gratuitous references in their titles or talk of extreme devotion to our country. Take as an example a name such as "Love of Our Country." My experience in the Committee on Un-American Activities has shown me that 9 out of 10 of that type of organization in reality is a Communist Cell supported organization feeding the unsuspecting people propaganda. There are Communist people in the country today that are using these methods to destroy the Constitution. There are a great many people in our country today who are damning our position in Viet Nam, when in reality that fight is going on to protect the right of those same people to say what they want to.

That is what the C.I.A. does. I cannot understand the furor that is being raised over the subsidizing of the student organizations by the C.I.A. The publicity has been as effective as if the enemy had sunk our Polaris submarine. If we only could recognize that the less said about this the better. I wonder what these people would say today if they were to hear about Nathan Hale. He was a spy. He was also a great hero. He said, "I regret that I have but one life to live for my country." Was he any the less of a spy than these people in the C.I.A. trying to protect our interests? He is going down in history as a hero. These people in C.I.A. belong in never-never land. You cannot understand the importance of protecting our system.

F. Edward Hebert (Cont.)

I am strongly for the C.I.A. I greatly believe in what they are doing. I compliment them for what they have done. I decry, on the other hand, those who have protested and criticized.

There is a cry that this agency is not supervised. The House has a Committee. The Senate has a Committee. We have weekly meetings with the representatives of the C.I.A. and we discuss their activities and their ventures. Could there be any more supervision than that? We know when money is earmarked for the C.I.A. Of course, you can't tell people that the money is earmarked for the C.I.A. It costs us millions of dollars to obtain information from the Communist world. Let an American attempt to go to Russia and have full freedom; let a foreigner go to one of the Iron Curtain countries and attempt to inspect a military base. Let anyone try to inspect our military installations. We have open days to visit things such as our nuclear vessels. Nothing is closed. The system being what it is we are compelled to spend millions of dollars to get information. It is a sad day when the news media criticizes the C.I.A. It is the only way to fight a closed society. How can we discuss everything? There must be a stop somewhere. Think now, we are fighting on the groundrules laid by our enemy. Shakespeare said, "I will teach you and you will teach me and I will better ."